

## Hand-split Shingle Making:

Shingles were not used till about 1880. Before that time, the roofs of homes or cabins were sod or dirt laid over slabs from sawmill cuttings.

The shingles were usually made from wood. The logs were cut into 16" or 18" drums. These drums were then soaked well for days, in hot water.

Then the soaked drums of wood were set on a larger block of wood.

In the earliest times a large splitting knife was pounded vertically thru the log twice to make one tapered shingle. Then the log was laborously turned upside down and another shingle was tapered by splitting the log again.

This process was repeated many times till a pile of shingles were hand-fashioned.

The next step was for young girls to place them in a caddy & tie them into bundles. These bundles were loaded into a wagon to be transported to the building site. A bundle of shingles was worth \$     each.

Later a hydraulic-driven shingle cutting knife was employed to save labor & increase production.

Incidentally, "Crissie" Lindsay Duke was hired as a shingle bundler.

Even later, shingles were sawed, but builders didn't like them as well.

